

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 100946  
ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03 VO-05  
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DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:JBROH-KAHN:BA  
APPROVED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN  
EA/RA:FCBENNETT  
EA/PRCM:RHART

-----089772 200116Z /64

O R 200000Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
USLO PEKING

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HONG KONG ALSO FOR INS DIDIR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: MACAU TRANSIT CENTER FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEES  
ARRIVING IN HONG KONG

REF: A. HONG KONG 4736, B. GENEVA 5403 (NOTAL),  
C. HONG KONG 4481 (NOTAL), D. BANGKOK 11132,  
E. HONG KONG 4054

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1. REF A NOTED THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF VIETNAMESE BOAT  
REFUGEE TRANSIT CENTER IN MACAU COULD OFFER SOLUTION TO  
PROBLEM OF INCREASING SHORTAGE OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THEM  
IN HONG KONG. REFS A AND B ALSO NOTED THAT UNHCR REGIONAL  
REP SAMPATKUMAR PLANS VISIT HONG KONG FOR ONE DAY TO LOOK  
AT ACCOMMODATIONS PROBLEM BEFORE RETURNING TO GENEVA  
APRIL 25.

2. WE WOULD LIKE SAMPATKUMAR TO USE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING MACAU TRANSIT CENTER, PARTICULARLY SINCE REF A NOTES THAT HONG KONG AUTHORITIES LIKELY TO REJECT PROPOSAL TO ACCOMMODATE REFUGEES ON CHEUNG CHAU ISLAND.

3. GENEVA THEREFORE SHOULD REQUEST UNHCR TO INSTRUCT

SAMPATKUMAR DURING VISIT TO HONG KONG TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF SETTING UP TRANSIT CENTER IN MACAU FOR REFUGEES WHO MAKE THEIR WAY TO HONG KONG WHERE ACCOMMODATIONS ARE LIMITED. GENEVA SHOULD POINT OUT THAT NEED FOR SUCH A CENTER SEEMS URGENT, NOT ONLY FOR VARIOUS REASONS CITED PARA 2 REF D BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY MENTIONED REF E THAT IF ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM UNRESOLVED PRESENT HONG KONG GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARD GRANTING FIRST ASYLUM TO BOAT REFUGEES COULD HARDEN.

4. KUALA LUMPUR AND HONG KONG SHOULD ALSO MAKE SAME POINTS TO SAMPATKUMAR IF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF.

5. HONG KONG SHOULD ALSO DISCUSS WITH HONG KONG AUTHORITIES AND ICEM REP, WHO ACTS ON BEHALF UNHCR IN HONG KONG, WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY PROBLEMS REGARDING DOCUMENTATION ON OTHER MATTERS IN MOVING REFUGEES TEMPORARILY FROM LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HONG KONG TO MACAU TRANSIT CENTER AND THEN BACK TO HONG KONG FOR FINAL PROCESSING AND ONWARD TRANSPORTATION.

6. IN MAKING POINTS OUTLINED ABOVE, ADDRESSEES SHOULD STRESS THAT MACAU TRANSIT CENTER SHOULD BE SET UP SOLELY TO RESOLVE PROBLEM OF ACCOMMODATION SHORTAGE IN HONG KONG AND NOT TO HOUSE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FROM ELSEWHERE IN REGION. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Subject:** MACAU TRANSIT CENTER FOR VIETNAMESE BOAT REFUGEES ARRIVING IN HONG KONG  
**TAGS:** SREF, VM, HK  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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